



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

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#### Date and Time

Monday November 10, 2025 at 5:00 PM

#### Location

**In-person location:** ECS Home Office - 2625 Manhattan Beach Blvd #100, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

**Two-way teleconference locations:** 1100 Shasta Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126 | 13885 Dogleg Lane, Broomfield, CO 80023

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ECS Board Members	Term and End Date
Dr. Betsy Hamilton, President.....	3 years June 30, 2028
Dr. Denise Berger, .....	3 years June 30, 2026
Mr. Anthony Jowid.....	3 years June 30, 2028
Ms. Zena Fong.....	3 years June 30, 2026
Dr. Madhu Chatwani.....	3 years June 30, 2026
Mr. Kennedy Hilario.....	3 years June 30, 2026
Mr. Herb Sims.....	3 years June 30, 2028
Mr. Mason Williams.....	3 years June 30, 2028
Mr. Andrew Ellenbogen.....	3 years June 30, 2026
Mr. Remco Waller.....	3 years June 30, 2028
Lawndale Elementary School District Representative, Rotating Position	

#### ECS Staff

Ms. Danielle Kelsick, Superintendent

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Ms. Lucia Bañuelos, Deputy Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Tracy Bondi, Director of Finance  
Mr. Jeremiah David, Director of Compliance & Operations  
Ms. Sarah Jamieson, Director of Human Resources  
Ms. Jen Fenton, Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Dr. Shalene Wright, Director of SpEd & English Language Development  
Mr. Cesar Delgado, Director of Student Wellness  
Dr. Geneva Matthews, Principal at ECMS-Inglewood  
Mr. Dave Trejo, Principal at ECMS-Gardena  
Dr. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro, Principal at ECHS-Gardena  
Ms. Jennifer Larsen, Principal at ECHS-Lawndale

**Mission:**

Reimagine public education in low-income communities of color to prepare conscious, critical thinkers who are equipped to graduate from college and create a more equitable and sustainable world.

**Values:**

JUSTICE - We examine bias, racism, and prejudice. We deliver culturally-responsive curricula. We succeed when students' race and class cease to predict their level of achievement.

COMMUNITY - We care. We collaborate. We respect the rights and voices of our stakeholders.

CURIOSITY - We question. We explore. We innovate.

SUSTAINABILITY - We think globally and act locally. We adapt. We encourage systems thinking to create a sustainable future.

LEADERSHIP - We listen. We think critically. We advocate. We shift public discourse. We are our own superheroes.

**THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS AT BOARD MEETINGS**

Notice is hereby given that consistent with the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, special presentations not mentioned in the agenda may be made at this meeting. However, any such presentation will be for information only. The public should be aware that the Board is unable by law to deliberate or take action on items raised during the Presentations from the Floor section.

Environmental Charter Schools recognizes that it benefits greatly from public input and perspective. Individuals are invited to address the Board on any topic or subject matter that falls within the Environmental Charter School's purview. Speakers may sign up in person immediately prior to the beginning of the Board meeting by turning in a Speaker Form (available at the check-in table in English and Spanish).

Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters not listed on the agenda, they may speak during the Presentations from the Floor section of the agenda. Speakers will be given a maximum of three (3) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of six (6) minutes each). Please note that the Board allows a maximum of 10 minutes to each subject as determined by the Board's presiding officer.

Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters listed on the agenda, they may speak during the Presentations from the Floor section of the agenda. Speakers will be given a maximum of five (5) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of ten (10) minutes each).

The public should be aware that the Board is unable by law to deliberate or take action on items raised during the Presentations from the Floor section.

### **REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY**

Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting of the Governing Board may request assistance by contacting ECS at (310) 214-3408, option 5.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information concerning this agenda or for materials relating to this meeting, please contact ECS at (310) 214-3408, option 5. Previous board meeting minutes may be viewed on the Board On Track public portal website at <https://app2.boardontrack.com/public/3tHo3u/home>.

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### **Directors Present**

Andrew Ellenbogen, Anthony Jowid (remote), Dr. Betsy Hamilton, Dr. Denise Berger, Dr. Madhu Chatwani, Herb Sims (remote), Kennedy Hilario (remote), LESD Representative, Mason Williams, Remco Waller, Zena Fong

### **Directors Absent**

*None*

### **Directors who arrived after the meeting opened**

Andrew Ellenbogen

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**Directors who left before the meeting adjourned**

LESD Representative

**Guests Present**

Albert Paredes (LESD Representative), Alison Diaz (remote), Amy Johnson, Andres de Dios, Ben West (CTA), Brandie Davis, Buncha Laohapanich, Carlos Franco, Charity Rock, Chloe Volz, Chorong Lee, Daniel Padilla, Danielle Kelsick, Danielle Marquez, Dave Trejo, Denise Hernandez, Dr. Beth Bernstein, Dr. Geneva Matthews, Dr. Melinda Grant, Dr. Shalene Wright, Elyse Magallanes, Emily Truong, Fabian Ponciano, Gerardo Alonzo, Holden Sonnenberg, Itan Morales, Jair Ventura (EdTec) (remote), Jean Yang (EdTec) (remote), Jen Fenton, Jen Larsen, Jennyfer Galvez-Reyes, Jeremiah David, Kamaiya Brown, Karina Gallegos, Kayla McCarley, Keeyan Ventura, Kristen Donahue, Lauren Pell, Lilly Chase, Lucia Bañuelos, Michael Romero, Nick Darden, Paola Pilegio, Paola Pliego, Richard Dotson, Robert Escalante (remote), Sarah Jamieson, Shawn Hua, Tashanda Giles-Jones, Tracy Bondi (remote), Valerie Marquez

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**I. Opening Items**

**A. Record attendance and guests**

**B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Dr. Betsy Hamilton called a meeting of the board of directors of Environmental Charter Schools to order on Monday Nov 10, 2025 at 5:05 PM.

**C. Approve the agenda**

Mason Williams made a motion to approve the agenda.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

LESD Representative	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Absent
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye

**D. Opener**

The board, staff and guests engaged in a brief opener in small groups for the purpose of getting to know each other.

Andrew Ellenbogen arrived.

## **II. Presentations from the Floor**

### **A. Presentations from the floor on non-agenda Items**

The following speakers gave public comment on the topic of the collective bargaining agreement in progress between EEU and ECS in the following order: Danielle Marquez, Lauren Pell, Fabian Ponciano, Nick Darden, Andres de Dios, Kristen Donahue, Brandie Davis.

Charity Rock gave public comment on the topic of ECS as a trajectory-changing organization.

Jennyfer Galvez-Reyes gave public comment on the topic of EEU leadership and representation.

Tashanda Giles-Jones gave public comment on the topic of ECS's outdoor education program.

### **B. Presentations from the floor on agenda items**

None.

## **III. Discussion Items / Updates**

### **A. Superintendent update**

Superintendent Danielle Kelsick presented the Superintendent Update slides, followed by a discussion and Q&A among the board members and staff.

### **B. Review LACOE Instructional Program Reviews for ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G**

Danielle Kelsick reviewed the LACOE Instructional Program Reviews for ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G with the ECS board.

### **C. EdTec financial update**

EdTec consultants Jair Ventura presented the EdTec Financial Slides in the board packet. The presentation covered the budget forecast changes for the current 2025-26 school year. A robust discussion followed among the board members and ECS leadership on the topics of capital expenditures, cash flow and investments, and budget forecast changes

## **IV. Consent Items A-D**

**A. Approve 9/15/2025 board meeting minutes**

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 09-15-25.

Remco Waller seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye

**B. Approve private donations over \$1,000**

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve private donations over \$1,000.

Remco Waller seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Herb Sims	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye

**C. Approve check registers and credit card statements**

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve check registers and credit card statements.

Remco Waller seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye

**Roll Call**

Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye

**D. Approve revised 2025-26 Board & Committee Calendar**

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve revised 2025-26 Board & Committee Calendar.

Remco Waller seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Remco Waller	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye

**V. Action Item****A. Accept LACOE Instructional Program Reviews for ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G**

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to accept LACOE Instructional Program Reviews for ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Remco Waller	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye

**Roll Call**

LESD Representative Aye

Dr. Betsy Hamilton Aye

Herb Sims Aye

Mason Williams Aye

**VI. Upcoming Dates/Announcements**

**A. Next ECS board meeting**

**B. Next ECS committee meetings**

**C. Appreciations**

Appreciations were briefly shared among ECS leadership and board members.

LESD Representative left.

**VII. Transition to closed session**

**A. Adjourn to closed session**

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to adjourn to closed session.

Remco Waller seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Zena Fong Aye

Dr. Betsy Hamilton Aye

Dr. Denise Berger Aye

Remco Waller Aye

Anthony Jowid Aye

Dr. Madhu Chatwani Aye

LESD Representative Absent

Kennedy Hilario Aye

Andrew Ellenbogen Aye

Herb Sims Aye

Mason Williams Aye

**VIII. Report Out of Closed Session**

**A. Report out**

Coming out of closed session, Board President Dr. Betsy Hamilton stated there was nothing to report out.

**IX. Closing Items**

**A.**



**Adjourn Meeting**

Zena Fong made a motion to adjourn meeting.  
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Herb Sims	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
LESD Representative	Absent
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Absent
Mason Williams	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Betsy Hamilton